

REMARKS

Examiner Interview

Applicant thanks the Examiner and her supervisor, Supervisory Examiner Black, for the interview held on January 19, 2010. In attendance was the undersigned and Mr. Ron Gordon who was assisting the undersigned. Discuss was the applicability of the reference “The Use of Virtual Fixtures as Perceptual Overlays to Enhance Operator Performance in Remote Environments”, AL/CF-TR-1994-0089 (“Rosenberg”).

No agreement was reached.

35 U.S.C. § 103

The examiner rejected claims 1-4 and 13-15 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,741,911 (“Simmons”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,103,404 (“McIntosh”), in further view of Rosenberg.

Claim 1 recites a system having a gateway device “generate[s]...supplemental virtual tactile sensation signals from...data retrieved from [a] computer storage medium.” Simmons and McIntosh neither describe nor render obvious at least this feature of claim 1 for reasons discussed previously.¹

Rosenberg fails to remedy the deficiencies of Simmons and McIntosh. To the extent that Rosenberg can be construed as teaching supplemental signals, Applicants contend that Rosenberg neither describes nor would render obvious the features of claim 1 and does not cure the deficiencies in the teachings of Simmons and McIntosh and in particular fails to render obvious “generate[s]...supplemental virtual tactile sensation signals from...data retrieved from [a] computer storage medium.” Rosenberg’s alleged “supplemental tactile sensations” are produced from simulated reaction forces reflected back to the operator as a result of the operator’s interaction with a modeled surface², and not from data stored in a computer readable

¹ Appeal Brief filed June 23, 2009, Pages 7-9.

² Rosenberg, Page 4, Lines 1-6.

medium in a gateway device, as required in claim 1. Claim 13 recites similar features as claim 1. Accordingly, the rejection should be withdrawn.

The examiner rejected claims 5-12 and 16-21 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over Simmons, McIntosh, and Rosenberg, and further in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0030397 (“Simmons 397”), U.S. Patent No. 7,333,622 (“Algazi”), U.S. Patent No. 6,786,863 (“Abbasi”), or U.S. Patent No. 6,016,385 (“Yee”). None of Simmons 397, Algazi, Abbasi, or Yee remedy the deficiencies of Simmons, McIntosh, and Rosenberg, for reasons discussed previously.³ Accordingly, the rejection should be withdrawn.

It is believed that all the rejections and/or objections raised by the examiner have been addressed.

In view of the foregoing, applicant respectfully submits that the application is in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested at the examiner's earliest convenience.

All of the dependent claims are patentable for at least the reasons for which the claims on which they depend are patentable.

Canceled claims, if any, have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Any circumstance in which the applicant has (a) addressed certain comments of the examiner does not mean that the applicant concedes other comments of the examiner, (b) made arguments for the patentability of some claims does not mean that there are not other good reasons for patentability of those claims and other claims, or (c) amended or canceled a claim does not mean that the applicant concedes any of the examiner's positions with respect to that claim or other claims.

³ Appeal Brief filed June 23, 2009, Pages 13-17

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Please apply any charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050, referencing Attorney
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Respectfully submitted,

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